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THE LAWYERS'

COMMON-PLACE BOOK,

WITH

AN ALPHABETICAL INDEX

OF

MOST OF THE HEADS WHICH OCCUR

IN

GENERAL READING AND PRACTICE.

BOSTON:

HILLIARD, GRAY, AND COMPANY.

1833.

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2166

Preface.

The utility of Common-Place Books has rarely been controverted since the decided testimony of Mr. Locke in their favour. His opinion was given after many years' experience, and has been sanctioned by all those who have made trial of the plan porposed by him. His method, although exceedingly useful to the general reader, has been less so to the professional student, on account of the difficulty of arranging and dividing the subjects in a proper manner.

Few lawyers however have attained to any considerable eminence in the profession, without a Common-Place Book of some sort. To facilitate the use of them so as to induce their adoption by every individual engaged in professional pursuits is the object of the present publication.

The student will here find a title prepared for him for nearly every thing he can take an interest in preserving. Should any of the heads be found too general, they can easily be subdivided. Should the student at any time feel at a loss under which of two or more heads a particular article ought to be placed, he will find it useful to refer to it under each of them. Many of the titles may never be used; but the want of them might prove an inconvenience, while their insertion can do no harm.

We are far from recommending to the student to transcribe all that he reads; yet we feel confident he will find great benefit from the free use of the book now offered. As a reference to cases and principles, it cannot be too freely used. Copious extracts of sentiments and opinions, which appear to possess any striking merit or peculiarity will also be found highly convenient.

The price of the book is little beyond the value of the paper and binding; and its size will render it more convenient for use than if it were larger. When one volume is filled, another can be taken, and any improvement in the arrangement, which experience may suggest, can easily be adopted in the second.

The plan of the work is too simple to render any directions for its use necessary, and if it shall aid at all in the acquisition of professional knowledge, our highest expectations will be realized.

It is hardly necessary to add, that this work is little else than the republication of one under the same title recently published in London. Such alterations have been made as the difference in the situation of the two countries seemed to require; and such improvements have been adopted as experience suggested. The work will be found equally adapted to every portion of our country.

January, 1825.

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